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TEACHERS HONORED FOR PIONEERING EFFORTS
WITH ORACLE INTERNET ACADEMY

LITTLE ROCK – Several Arkansas teachers were recently honored by the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities (SBWECO) and Acxiom for their pioneering efforts in bringing the Oracle Internet Academy to Arkansas high schools.

The teachers attended an intensive two-week training program in California this past summer so they could begin the innovative Oracle Academy in their schools this fall.

Through the training, the teachers were certified as instructors for the Oracle Academy, a two-year, real-world program that focuses on the latest Internet technologies, database development and Java programming skills. The curriculum goes beyond the technical skills to emphasize such skills as writing an effective resume, handling a job interview and making persuasive presentations.

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Before presenting the teachers with certificates of appreciation at the SBWECO meeting, Sandra Porter, business and marketing program manager with the Department of Workforce Education, referred to them as “pioneers in bringing creative, innovative curriculum to Arkansas’ classrooms.”

Porter praised the teachers for giving more than is asked of them to ensure their students have the skills to succeed.

Matthew Cahill, academy manager for Oracle, called the Internet academies a “business/education partnership in its purest form.” He said the academies position Arkansas as a national leader in workforce education while creating more opportunities for Arkansas students.

“By taking the Oracle classes, students will be equipped with the technical and professional knowledge they will need to pursue future employment,” Lisa Hotsenpiller, an Oracle Academy instructor at Siloam Springs High School, said. “Oracle is a very positive experience for students. It gives them an edge that few other courses or opportunities provide.”

Oracle teachers are Daniel Moix, Arkansas School of Mathematics, Sciences and the Arts, Hot Springs; Julie Aaron and Jeremy Brevell, Arkansas High School, Texarkana; Rachel Gaston, Camden Fairview High School, Camden; Deborah Calvin, Central High School, West Helena; Angela Kichline and Paula Wheeler, Elkins High School; Steve Kelley, Emmet High School; Chris Howard, Forrest City High School; Kim

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Austin and Rick Gales, Greenbrier High School; and Kendall Wallis, Izard County High School, Brockwell.

Other Oracle teachers honored were Tim Tell, J.A. Fair High School, Little Rock; Mark Smith, Lake Hamilton High School, Percy; Jamie Harper, Lakeside High School, Lake Village; Sherri Keesee, McClellan High School, Little Rock; Gail Young, Mountain Home High School; Michelle Bones, North Little Rock High School; Jason Himes, Prescott High School; Hotsenpiller; Marion Carroll, Smackover High School; and Neil Gibson, Yellville-Summit High School, Yellville.

Following the board meeting, the teachers were invited to a luncheon and presentation hosted by Acxiom and given a tour of the company's facility in Little Rock.

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